Approach paper for National Policy on Culture

4100. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared an approach paper for National Policy on Culture;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether final document of the policy has been prepared;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Department of Culture in August, 1993 had published a Paper titled "Approach Paper on the National Policy on Culture and Observation, Comments, Recommendations Thereon."

(c) to (e) Though attempts to formulate a comprehensive National Culture Policy were made in the past, no finality could be arrived at.

Tourist spots in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and M.P.

†4101. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tourist spots in U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and M.P.;

(b) whether Government have formulated any policy for the development of tourists spots in above States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India had identified travel circuits in consultation with the State Governments of U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and M.P. which are as follows :

1. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho

2. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. Rishikesh-Narendranagar-Gangotri-Badrinath
4. Bhopal-Sanchi-Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu (Bhopal and Sanchi)
5. Varanasi/Sarnath-Gorakhpur-Kushinagar-Sunali-Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), Sankis Kausambi-Sravasti-Lucknow (Buddhist Circuit).
6. Patna-Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir-Vaishali (Buddhist Circuit)
7. Bhubaneshwar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udyagiri-Kendraparha-Chand Bali Bhadrak (Sun Temple).

(b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India acts as a facilitator and coordinator for the development and promotion of tourism in the States/UTs.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central financial assistance to State Government/UTs every year for the projects identified in consultation with them.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Central financial assistance for the tourism projects including spots falling in travel circuits during the last three years *i.e.* 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 :—

States	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crores)
U.P.	16.88
Bihar	6.42
Orissa	6.82
Rajasthan	10.22
M.P.	11.45

Smuggling of rare idols from Bilasgarh fort to foreign countries

†4102. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the hundreds of rare idols of valuable heritage from historical points of view dating back to thousand of years in Bilasgarh Fort situated at Bara District of Rajasthan, have been smuggled out to foreign countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.